

# **HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held in the Washington City Council Chambers on **July 28, 2015**.

## Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Vice Chairman	Local Development
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
John Bramall	Mayors Association
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
Bob Sandberg	HCP Administrator

## Absent and excused were:

Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
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## Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Technical Committee (HCP)
Kristen Comella	Technical Committee (SCSP)
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Zachary Renstrom	Washington County Commissioner
Jodi Borgeson	Deputy County Attorney
Gary Webster	Congressman Stewart's Office
William Swadley	Senator Mike Lee's Office
Julie Applegate	St. George News
Susan Crook	Citizen's for Dixie's Future
Lisa Rutherford	Citizen
Paul Van Dam	Citizen
Michael Van Dam	Citizen

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Blake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. **Approval of Agenda**
- b. **Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes**
  1. **June 23, 2015**
- c. **Next Meeting Date**

Approved HCAC Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2015

**1. August 25, 2015**

**MOTION** by Chris Hart to approve the Consent Agenda.  
**Seconded** by John Bramall.  
**Discussion:** None.  
**Vote was taken:** All voted aye.  
**Motion passed.**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

a. Chairman Blake explained he may have a conflict with the Confluence Park item on the agenda, item 6-e, due to the fact that he sits on the Board of Trustees for the Virgin River Land Preservation Association.

John Bramall declared he will not be able to attend the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

a. Dawna mentioned the draft release of the BLM Resource Management Plans for the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area and the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area as well as a Draft Amendment to the St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The documents have been released for a 90 day public comment period. Information on those items can be obtained on the BLM-Utah website at [www.blm.gov/sgfo](http://www.blm.gov/sgfo). There will be three open houses for the public to ask questions and be assisted with submitting comments. Those open houses will occur on September 1 at the Dixie Center, September 2nd at the Hurricane City Office, and September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Red Lion Hotel in Salt Lake City.

**5. UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

a. None

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**a. Update on land acquisition efforts – Bob/Dawna**

Regarding section 6 acquisitions, the state Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has closed on the Virgin River Land Preservation Association parcel as well as the SITLA parcel. The State is finalizing all of the payments and determining if there are any excess funds to use for the potential purchase of other properties.

Dawna reported the feasibility package for the Long Valley exchange is still moving through the Washington office.

**b. Update on permit renewal – Bob/Commissioner Gardner**

Commissioner Alan Gardner made an incidental take permit renewal overview presentation, Exhibit 6-b-1. The presentation discussed the Reserve's commitments, translocation success, acquired inholdings since 1996, and renewing the permit.

**c. Technical Committee Report**

Kristen Comella reported that the TC took a field trip to a proposed road addition in the Diamond Valley area that a local developer previously brought to the committee. The developer was advised to contact Teresa Burke with the BLM, and the item was continued awaiting more information.

The TC briefly discussed the proposed Quarry Trail. The committee determined there is no alternative quarry site to be explored and a proposed trail exchange option is not feasible. The TC reiterated that their original proposal still stands as the TC's official recommendation. Chris Hart questioned why the trail exchange option was not feasible. Kristen reminded the committee that there is a public process that would have to be gone through in order to remove a trail in the Reserve. Bob mentioned exchanging trails could potentially be mitigation, but that avenue is more difficult due to the public process involved. This proposed trail is on St. George City property so it is ultimately up to St. George City to approve it or not.

The final discussion from the TC was concerning the budget. The committee approved the draft budget and the HCAC now has that budget as an exhibit.

**d. Continuation of Quarry Trail proposal**

Marc Mortensen referred to Exhibit 6-d-1, a map showing an alternate path 'B' for the proposed Quarry Trail. Alternate "A" Alignment was the original route approved by the TC. That alignment had a great liability for St. George City so representatives from the city went out to find an alignment they felt more comfortable with, Alternate "B". It has not been approved by the City Council yet, however, it is an alignment Marc says they would be comfortable presenting to the City Council.

**MOTION** by John Bramall to move forward with Alternate "B" pending approval from the St. George City Council. There will be some safety structures put in place by St. George City, which will be coordinated with the HCP staff and possibly the TC, and mitigation will be sufficient.

Seconded by Chris Hart.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: No's: Henry Maddux and Chris Blake. Ayes: Marc Mortensen, Chris Hart, Dawna-Ferris Rowley, and John Bramall.

Motion passed.

**e. Request for support to purchase property at Confluence Park**

Chris Blake explained there is property available for purchase outside Confluence Park. The point of bringing this to the HCAC is to see if there is still interest in the purchase and to ask about funding for the purchase. Henry asked about how many acres and how much it would cost. Bob answered it was about 185 acres. About 3 years ago there was an appraisal that came in around 2 million dollars, but the bank has promised a bargain sale. Chris Blake mentioned the Virgin River Land Preservation Association would search for partners, besides the county, to pay for this purchase.

**MOTION** by John Bramall to support the purchase of 185 acres adjacent to Confluence Park, providing additional partners can be found by Virgin River Land Preservation Association.  
**Seconded** by Chris Hart.  
**Discussion**: None.  
**Vote was taken**: All voted aye.  
**Motion passed**.

**f. HCP Administrator's report – Bob Sandberg**

**1. Submission of the 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR report**

Bob handed the committee the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report and asked the committee to look it over and bring any questions or concerns to the HCAC meeting next month.

**2. Update on mural project**

Bob reported that the mural project is almost completed. He showed a photo of a portion of the wall, Exhibit 6-f-2, and suggested everyone drive by to see how well it turned out.

**3. Draft 2016 budget**

Bob gave Exhibit 6-f-3, a draft 2016 budget, to the committee members. He asked the members to look it over and bring any concerns to the HCAC meeting next month.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item (three minutes per person).**

a. Lisa Rutherford commented on how nice the mural looked and asked if the HCP is putting the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve logo on it. Bob answered yes there will be a logo on the mural wall. She also asked a few questions she had to clarify items the committee discussed throughout the meeting.

**8. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. Chris Hart would like to request to continue the discussion regarding if the 1,300 additional acres that were added into the Reserve since 1996 would be available for mitigation. County Attorney Jodi Borgeson said she will research that issue and aim to have answers on it in the September HCAC meeting.

**9. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Henry Maddux to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.